X-MEN

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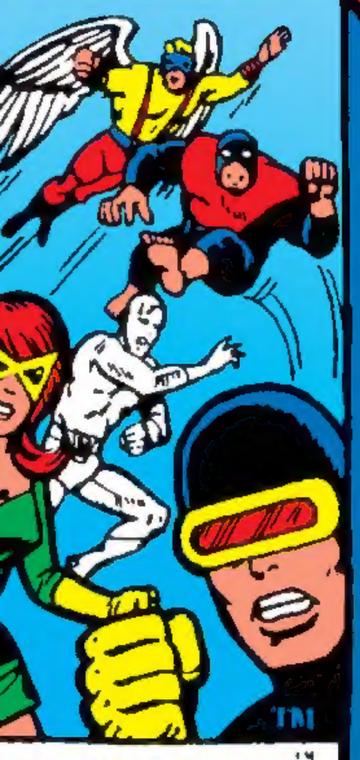

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

# X-MEN

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SIENKIEWICZ

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EDITOR·STAN LEE WRITER·ARNOLD DRAKE ART· DO WE HAVE TO TELL YOU? INKS·JOHN TARTAGLIONE LETTERING·S.ROSEN

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FROM THE GRAVE TO WHICH ALL HAD THOUGHT HIM CONSIGNED, MAGNETO HAS RETURNED ...

YES! IT IS SO! THE GIRL IS FLESH OF MY FLESH...BLOOD OF MY BLOOD! HERS SHALL BE THE POWER AND GLORY KNOWN TO NO OTHER WOMAN! FOR...

SHE IS...THE DAUGHTER OF MAGNETO!

NOW, MY CHILD, YOU MUST MAKE YOUR CHOICE!

WILL YOU STAND BESIDE THESE FOOLS WHO ARE TOO BLIND OR TOO COWARDLY TO USE THE INFINITE POWER TO WHICH THEY, TOO, WERE BORN ...

...A POWER BEYOND ALL OTHER MEN... A MIGHT DESTINED ONLY FOR GODS? OR...

...WILL YOU HEED THE CALL OF YOUR OWN BLOOD, AND ENTHRONED BESIDE ME, RULE ALL OF MANKIND?

THAT, FRIENDS, IS WHAT THEY CALL STACKING THE DECK! HE'S COMBINED THE TWO MOST POWERFUL HUMAN ELEMENTS!

VERILY! FILIAL DUTY AND THE INNER NEED FOR POWER! THE GIRL HAS NO OPTION BUT TO TURN AGAINST US!

SHE COULD HAVE A CHOICE...IF SHE KNEW THE TRUTH ABOUT MAGNETO! I'M NOT WILD ABOUT TELLING A GIRL THAT HER FATHER IS AN INSANE MASS KILLER...BUT IT HAS TO BE...EVEN THOUGH SHE'S GOTTA HATE ME FOR IT!

TELL HER THE REST, BIG MAN! TELL HER HOW YOU'VE USED YOUR MUTANT POWERS TO FEED YOUR OWN MAD EGO! TELL HER...

...ABOUT THE LIVES YOU'VE TAKEN, THE FORTUNES YOU'VE STOLEN, THE MISERY AND MISFORTUNE YOU'VE BEEN SPREADIN' AROUND WITH A TROWEL! TELL HER...

...THAT YOU'RE OFFERIN' HER A HALF-INTEREST IN A BLOODY EMPIRE THAT WOULD MAKE GENGHIS KHAN AND ATTILA THE HUN LOOK LIKE THE SMOTHERS BROTHERS!

2.

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NEVER *MIND* ALL THAT JAZZ! I'M NOT WAITIN' FOR HER TO MAKE A DECISION! I'VE *HAD IT* UP TO HERE WITH A GUY WHO'D EVEN...

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR *MIND*, ICE-MAN? YOU CAN'T TURN THIS INTO A PRIVATE *SALOON* BRAWL!

...*CON* HIS OWN KID INTO JOINING HIS PILLAGE AND PLUNDER ACT! COME ON, MAGNETO, LET'S YOU AND ME SETTLE THIS... *ALONE!*

MAYBE NOT... BUT I SURE KNOW HOW HE *FEELS!* PERSONALLY, I'D GET A HEAP OF SATISFACTION OUT OF CLEANING THE FLOOR WITH THAT MAGNETIZED MENACE *MYSELF!*

BEAST IS RIGHT! THIS IS *NO* TIME FOR INDIVIDUAL *AX* GRINDING! AND THAT'S *NOT* WHAT THE X-MEN ARE ALL ABOUT!

I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THAT! I'M *ONLY* INTERESTED IN GETTIN' EVEN WITH ANYBODY WHO'D...

...TURN A SWEET KID LIKE LORNA... A KID WITH A HEART AND A SOUL AND A CLEAN FRESH SPIRIT... INTO *QUEEN OF THE GHOULS!*

SO, FOR *ONE* LONE BEING, YOU'D THROW AWAY THE EXTRA-ORDINARY GIFT WITH WHICH YOU WERE BORN AND THE INFINITE TRAINING BY *PROFES-SOR XAVIER*...

...WHICH WERE MEANT TO BENEFIT *ALL* MEN!

THEY ARE RIGHT, ICEMAN! NO MATTER *WHAT* MY DECISION... YOU CANNOT *WASTE* YOUR-SELF ON ME!

HOLD IT, ICEMAN! JUST *TELL* ME... ARE YOU DETERMINED TO DO THIS, NO *MATTER* WHAT?

YOU *KNOW* IT, MAN! SO NO MORE SERMONS OR PATRIOTIC PITCHES!

NO! I'VE PITCHED MY *LAST* PITCH! SO LONG AS I KNOW THERE'S *NO* WAY OF CHANGING YOUR MIND ABOUT THIS...

...WE MIGHT AS WELL MAKE IT ONE GREAT BIG FAMILY *DONNYBROOK!* MAGNETO... THE *JUNIOR* MEMBER OF OUR ORGANIZATION JUST WON THE DAY! WHICH MEANS...

...*YOU LOSE!!!*

KRR-NCH!

I DON'T KNOW HOW A *SUPER-ROGUE* LIKE YOU PRODUCED A TOP-DRAWER ITEM LIKE *LORNA*...BUT I'M GOING TO *TRY* NOT TO LET IT INFLUENCE ME! YOU'RE *STILL* NUMBER ONE ON MY--- *RAT LIST!*

THE *FIRST* BLOW WAS YOURS! BUT THE LAST...THE *DEATH* BLOW... SHALL BE *MINE!*

*MESMERO!* LOYALEST OF ALL MY SERVANTS...PUT AN END TO THESE *NOXIOUS* FOOLS!

THERE IS A FORTUNE...AND MY UNDYING GRATITUDE... TO HIM WHO CLAIMS THEIR... *HEADS!*

GOT TO GET LORNA *OUT* OF HERE! SHE'S IN THE MIDDLE... CAUGHT BETWEEN HER OLD MAN AND HIS SWORN ENEMIES ...US!

SHE'S BOUND TO GET *HURT!* AND I'M NOT WAITIN' FOR THAT TO HAPPEN!

FWISHH!

'SCUSE THE COLD FINGERS, HONEY... BUT I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO SLIP ON MY WOOLY *MITTENS!*

ALSO... I NEED THIS ICY PROTECTION AGAINST A *WARM* HUNK OF GIRL LIKE YOU!

WHY ARE YOU *DOING* THIS, MAN OF ICE? WHY SINGLE *ME* OUT FOR...

..*SPECIAL* ATTENTION? AND WHY DO I FEEL SO *STRANGE* IN YOUR ARMS?

HEY! *CASANOVA JR.!* SNAP OUT OF THAT NAUSEATING *TRANCE!* WE NEED YOUR HELP! GET INTO YOUR...

...*FRIGID* ROUTINE BEFORE THAT ARMY OF *MISFITS* CLOBBERS US ALL!

FRIZZZ!

YARRGGGG!

THE BRIDGE OF FROZEN ATMOSPHERIC MOISTURE ARCS TO THE FLOOR AND SPREADS AN ICE CARPET, *IMMOBILIZING* EACH EVIL MUTANT LIKE A BUTTERFLY ON A PIN!

OKAY! THEY'RE *ALL* THERE FOR THE PICKIN'S! SO LET'S START *PICKIN'!*

KYUMP!

BAWOOOSH!

CAUTIOUSLY, CHUM! ONLY THEIR *PEDAL* EXTREMITIES ARE FROZEN! THE REST OF THEM CAN *STILL* PACK A WALLOP!

WOW! YOU WERE RIGHT, AS USUAL, BEAST! THAT BLAST SINGED MY FEATHERS!

YIII!

CYKE! BEHIND YOU! THEY JUST RAN IN A BATCH OF RE-PLACEMENTS! AND THIS BUNCH IS CARRYING ---

...AN IMPENETRABLE METAL HELMET, THAT EVEN YOUR VAUNTED POWERS CANNOT PIERCE, CYCLOPS!

I WALKED RIGHT INTO THAT ONE! BEAST! ICEMAN! GIVE ME A HAND! HURRY!

WOULD THAT I COULD, SIRE! BUT IT'S ALL I CAN DO AT THE MOMENT TO DODGE THESE TELEPATHICALLY CONTROLLED GRENADE MINES MAGNETO IS FLINGING!

WHIZ!

VNOOSH!

ZKSH!

ZHIIIP!

AND ICEMAN'S IN A STATE OF COLLAPSE! THE STRAIN OF PRO-JECTING THAT HUGE ICE LAYER---IT'S MOMENTARILY WEAKENED HIM!

MUST PROTECT HIM AGAINST THOSE ASSASSINS! JUST TIME ENOUGH TO PROJECT A WALL OF MENTAL ENERGY!

CYKE'S TRYING TO YANK THE HELMET OFF! BUT HE CAN'T! THE *LOWER* RINGS---

---WERE MADE *SELF-CONTRACTING!* SO THAT THEY...

---*CLOSED* AROUND HIS NECK! HE'S TOTALLY *TRAPPED!*

*WAIT!* HE---HE'S USED HIS ENERGY AGAINST THE HELMET! BUT... CAN HE BUST *OUTTA* THERE-- IN *TIME?*

*AAAA*

*ACK!*

ALL RIGHT...WE'VE *TAKEN* IT LONG ENOUGH! TIME WE STARTED *GIVING* A LITTLE OF OUR OWN!

INDUBITABLY, *MON CAPITAIN!* IT IS NOT ONLY *BETTER* TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE... IT'S *SAFER!*

ALSO MORE GRATIFYING, IF YOU DIG PUNISHING YOUR ENEMIES! AND *I* DIG!

STOP! ICE-MAN IS STILL IMMOBILIZED! ANOTHER *MINUTE* AND HE'LL BE COMPLETELY RE-COVERED! THEN WE'LL BE AT *FULL STRENGTH!*

SO...YOU *HESITATE!* AND THAT SHALL BE YOUR ULTIMATE *UNDOING!* FOR NOW---

---WITH THE MUTANT POWER OF MAGNETISM THAT *DWELLS* WITHIN EACH CELL OF MY BODY, I SHALL TURN EVERY *BOLT* AND IRON PLATE IN THESE VERY WALLS INTO MISSILES! A *SHRAPNEL* TORNADO FOR YOU, MY FRIENDS!

VWOOOOOOOSH!

THE TWO-LEGGED *RODENT* IS AS GOOD AS HIS WORD! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STOP THAT *WAVE* OF IRON JUNK, MARVEL GIRL! *GO TO IT!*

KALANG!

BUT ANGEL IS *TRAPPED* OUTSIDE THAT PROTECTIVE WALL!

EEYOWW!

ANGEL! QUICK, GET *BEHIND* ME! I CAN BEAT *BACK* THAT STUFF FOR A WHILE! ON THE DOUBLE, MAN!

ALL RIGHT, MAGNETO... IT'S *YOUR* POWER AGAINST *MINE*... YOUR WILL DIRECTLY COMBATTING MY OWN! LET'S SEE WHICH OF US WILL *CRUMBLE* FIRST!

CRAWL!

HIS MUTANT ENERGY IS OVERWHELMING...EVEN THOUGH IT'S **SPLIT** BETWEEN JEAN AND ME! THE **STRAIN** IS UNBEARABLE!

IS THAT THE **BEST** YOU CAN DO, MAGNETO? YOU MUST BE LOSING YOUR GRIP IN YOUR OLD AGE! COME **ON**...MAKE IT INTERESTING!

JUST AS YOU **SAY**, MY BOASTFUL ANTAGONIST! I SHALL TURN UP THE MUTANT ENERGY UNTIL YOU ARE **CRUSHED** TO DUST!

**WAIT**, FATHER! WHY MUST THEY DIE? IS THERE **NO** OTHER WAY?

NONE! I CAN **NOT** REST UNTIL THE X-MEN HAVE BEEN WIPED FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH! THEY WOULD DO THE **SAME** HAD THEY THE UPPER HAND!

THE **GIRL** SHALL GO FIRST! ALREADY I FEEL HER PSYCHOKINETIC POWER IS **CRUMBLING** UNDER MY ASSAULT!

**OHHHH--!** MY WALL OF MENTAL ENERGY COLLAPSED! HE'S **BURYING** ME IN A TIDAL WAVE OF SCRAP IRON!

**HOLD ON**, MARVEL GIRL! TRY TO **SLOW DOWN** THAT STUFF WITH YOUR PSYCHIC POWERS... TILL WE CAN OVER-COME MAGNETO, **SOMEHOW!**

SOMEHOW? SURE...ONLY **HOW?** HE'S GOT A WHOLE ARMY OF THESE POWER-LOADED FREAKS TO **THROW** AT US!

LET'S FACE IT... WE'VE NEVER BEEN UP AGAINST ANY-THING TO EQUAL IT! I SAY WE BEAT AN ORDERLY **RETREAT!**

UH-OH! LOOKS LIKE THEY DON'T PLAN ON LETTIN' US *USE* OUR ROUND-TRIP TICKETS!

THEY'VE FORMED A *CHAIN*...TO KEEP US FROM GETTING PAST THEM! WELL...A CHAIN'S NO STRONGER THAN ANY *ONE LINK!* SO HERE GOES ONE LIVING LINK!

SUMMONING HIS LAST OUNCE OF *STRENGTH*, CYCLOPS THROWS A MIGHTY PUNCH, ONLY TO FIND...

FOOL! I HAVE THE MUTANT POWER OF... *NEGATIVE* ENERGY! ANY BLOW THAT IS STRUCK *AGAINST* ME IS INSTANTLY RETURNED... WITH *DOUBLE* THE IMPACT!

KAWAM!

AND NOW YOU MUST KNOW OUR SECRET! *LINKED TOGETHER* THIS WAY, EACH OF US GAINS THE *TOTAL* FORCE OF ALL THE OTHERS!

THERE IS *NO* WAY OUT FOR YOU! ONE BY ONE WE SHALL CALL THE *ROLL* OF DEATH!

ANGEL! *YOU* SHALL DIE WITHIN THE CONTRACTING COILS OF THESE *STEEL* CABLES! SLOWLY...INEXORABLY... THEY SHALL SQUEEZE THE LAST *BREATH* FROM YOUR BODY!

*UHHNN!* HE..HE..HE'S NOT KIDDIN'! IT'S STARTING *ALREADY!* MY BREATH ...BEING SQUEEZED FROM ME! RIB CAGE GONNA COLLAPSE... ANY SECOND! *ARRRHH!*

ONLY ONE WAY TO *SNAP* MAGNETO'S HOLD! GOT TO...

KAWOOM!

...BRING THIS WHOLE EVIL HOUSE OF CARDS DOWN AROUND HIS *EARS!* WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE OUR CHANCES...WHEN THE *ROOF* FALLS IN!

EEEEYAAAA!

I'M *FREE!* THAT FALLING ROOF MUST HAVE TAKEN HIS MIND OFF HIS WORK!

*NO!* IT WAS MORE THAN THAT!

LOOK! HE'S BEEN TRAPPED UNDER THE *DEBRIS!* BUT *WAIT!* WHAT'S THAT?

I'VE GOT A BETTER VANTAGE POINT... SO I CAN *SEE* WHAT IT IS! IT'S LORNA... SHE'S USING HER POWERS TO *FREE* MAGNETO! I NEVER FIGURED SHE'D TURN COMPLETELY *AGAINST* US, BUT...

...HE'S HER *FATHER!* AND SHE'S GOT TOO MUCH QUALITY TO DESERT EVEN A FATHER LIKE *THAT!*

WHATEVER IT IS, THE EVIL MUTANTS HAVE THEIR *HANDS* FULL! SO...

...LET'S PULL *OUT* OF HERE WHILE WE'VE GOT THE CHANCE! WE'LL REPAIR TO OUR BASE AND DO SOME *FANCY* COGITATING! SO THAT NEXT TIME WE...

...MEET THE MUTANT ARMY, WE'LL BE *BETTER* PREPARED!

RETREAT ISN'T GOING TO BE ALL THAT ***EASY!*** THERE'S A ***DEAD END*** AHEAD! WE'RE LOCKED IN!

TIME TO CALL IN OUR DEAD END ***SPECIALIST!*** BEAST! TEAR A HOLE THROUGH THAT THING!

YOUR WISH IS MY COMMAND, SIRE!

ONE MAN-SIZED ESCAPE ***HOLE***... COMING UP!

MAWOMMP!

***YOWWWWWF!*** I BELIEVE I HAVE JUST SELF-INDUCED ONE KING-SIZED ***EXCEDRIN*** HEADACHE! BUT THE DEED IS DONE!

OKAY... EVERYBODY IS ***OUT*** NOW! SO I'M GOING TO...

...***SEAL*** UP THAT WALL AGAIN! IT WON'T RESIST THEIR MUTANT POWERS FOR LONG! BUT... LONG ***ENOUGH!***

THE LANDING FIELD IS ***CLEAR!*** AND THEY WERE EVEN ACCOMODATING ENOUGH TO LEAVE US ONE OF THEIR ***SHIPS!*** PILE IN!

RIGHT! BUT I'VE GOT ONLY ***ONE*** REGRET! I WISH WE DIDN'T HAVE TO LEAVE ***LORNA*** BACK THERE!

ARE ***YOU*** KIDDING? THE GIRL PUT ***IN*** WITH THEM! MAYBE YOU'D LIKE US TO TAKE A ***RATTLE-SNAKE*** BACK WITH US, TOO!

CUT IT OUT! WHAT ***CHOICE*** DID SHE HAVE? DID YOU EXPECT HER TO HAND US HER OLD MAN'S ***HEAD*** ON A PLATTER?

NOW SHUT UP AND... ***MOVE!***

THEY ESCAPE...CURSED BE THEIR NAME! AND I AM POWERLESS TO STOP THEM---MY LEGS ARE PARALYZED FROM THAT COLLAPSING CEILING!

BUT NOTHING HAS BEEN LOST! MY STRENGTH WILL RETURN IN TIME... AND SO WILL THE X-MEN! THEY CAN NO MORE RESIST THE URGE TO DESTROY ME---

---THAN I CAN TURN A DEAF EAR TO THE RAGING VOICE WITHIN ME THAT CONSTANTLY ECHOES... "KILL THE X-MEN---"

"KILL THE X-MEN!"

SEVERAL HOURS LATER, IN THEIR TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS IN SAN FRANCISCO...

---I'M NOT SAYING IT FOR YOUR GOOD ALONE, BOBBY! I'M SAYING IT FOR ALL OF US! YOU'RE STILL TOO WEAK TO JUMP BACK INTO ACTION!

SO I'M A LITTLE POOPED... SO WHAT? I'VE FOUGHT IN MUCH WORSE SHAPE THAN THIS!

NOW, COME ON, SCOTT... WHAT'S REALLY BUGGING YOU?

WATCH IT, BOBBY! THAT'S TANTAMOUNT TO CALLING SCOTT A LIAR! AND...

...AND HE'S RIGHT, JEAN! I WAS LYING! BUT THERE'S NO POINT IN THAT NOW! MY REAL REASON FOR WANTING HIM OFF THIS CASE IS...

...THAT HE'S LOST HIS OBJECTIVITY! HE'S EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED WITH THAT GIRL--LORNA!

AND SHE JUST HAPPENS TO BE THE DAUGHTER OF OUR MORTAL ENEMY! THERE'S A CONFLICT OF INTEREST!

HUH?!

YOU HEARD WHAT I SAID! YOU'RE MIXED-UP ABOUT THAT GIRL! AND WE CAN'T AFFORD THE SLIGHTEST DIVIDED ALLEGIANCE!

EVEN IF IT ONLY MEANT A SPLIT SECOND'S HESITATION BY YOU UNDER STRESS, THAT FRACTION OF TIME COULD COST US ALL OUR LIVES!

HOLD IT... YOU MAY BE OUR GREAT LEADER AND PROFESSOR XAVIER MAY HAVE TURNED OVER HIS COMMAND TO YOU... BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I HAVE TO STAND FOR BEING CALLED A TRAITOR!

WATCH IT, YOU TWO! WE DON'T NEED MASS DISSENSION!



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I'VE **NEVER** ASKED FOR ANY SPECIAL TREATMENT BECAUSE I'M CAPTAIN OF THE TEAM! AND IF YOU'RE ITCHING TO HAVE IT **OUT** WITH ME...

...JUST SAY THE WORD! YOU WANT THE RIGHT TO MAKE ADULT DECISIONS, THEN BE READY TO **BACK** THEM UP WITH A MAN-SIZED FIST!

MY PLEASURE! JUST GET YOUR **STOOGE** OFF MY BACK AND WE'LL SEE **WHO'S** PREPARED TO EAT **WHOSE** WORDS!

I WOULDN'T HAVE BELIEVED IT IF I HADN'T **HEARD** IT WITH MY OWN EARS! TWO X-MEN ACTING LIKE A PAIR OF THUGS IN A **GRADE-Z** GANGSTER MOVIE!

IS **THIS** WHAT WE GAVE OUR LIVES TO? IS THIS WHY WE SACRIFICED ANY NORMAL EXISTENCE WE MIGHT HAVE HAD TO BECOME THE **X-MEN?**

THE MONTHS AND MONTHS OF TENSION AND PAIN THAT WE UNDERTOOK TO **PERFECT** OUR MUTANT POWERS! THE DEVOTION THAT...

...PROFESSOR XAVIER LAVISHED ON US TO MAKE US THE BEST FIGHTING **TEAM** THAT EVER LIVED...!

--ALL THAT BLOWN TO **DUST** BY A PAIR OF HOT-HEADED FOOLS! IS **THAT** GOING TO BE YOUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT?

DON'T WHISTLE ME THE **THE STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER!** HE STARTED IT...

...WITH THAT JAZZ ABOUT ME BEING A TRAITOR! BUT I'M GONNA FINISH IT! LIKE.. **NOW!**

YOU WEREN'T LISTENING TO A **WORD** SHE SAID, WERE YOU? IT WENT IN ONE DUMB EAR...

--AND RIGHT OUT THE OTHER! WELL--**I** HEARD HER AND SHE'S RIGHT! THROWING PUNCHES AT EACH OTHER **ISN'T** GOING TO SOLVE ONE SOLITARY THING!

WELL **I'LL** BE..! YOU..YOU'RE CHICKEN! THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE! I'D **NEVER** HAVE BELIEVED IT!

YOU STILL DON'T GET IT, DO YOU, YOU WET-EARED PUP!

I **GET** IT, ALL RIGHT! OUR NOBLE LEADER HAS LOST HIS **COOL!** I'M GETTIN' OUT OF HERE BEFORE YOU BUST OUT IN **BIG** WET TEARS!

LET HIM GO! IT'S **BETTER** THIS WAY! HE'LL COOL OFF...

...IN TIME! AND BY THEN WE'LL BE **DONE** WITH MAGNETO!

THAT IS, IF MY PLAN DOESN'T RUN INTO ANY **SNAGS** ALONG THE WAY!

**PLAN?!** WHAT PLAN? HOW ABOUT LETTING THE **LOWLY** TROOPS IN ON THE **HIGH** COMMAND STRATEGY, GENERAL?

SEVERAL DAYS LATER, IN THE GREAT **WASTELAND** THAT BETRAYS ONLY A SMALL CLUE TO THE FANTASTIC WORLD THAT LIES **BENEATH** IT...

THERE IT IS AGAIN! THE **R-SCOPE** GIVES POSITIVE INDICATION OF AN APPROACHING INTRUDER! HE IS **CLOSE** AT HAND NOW!

AND THE **M-DETECTOR** PROCLAIMS HIM TO BE A **HIGHLY** DEVELOPED MUTANT!

**RUN** FOR YOUR LIVES! THE VERY EARTH ITSELF **CRUMBLES** BENEATH HIS POWER!

**KRAKK!**

**HO!!!**

IT IS **USELESS** TO TRY TO ESCAPE ME! NOR HAVE I COME TO DO BATTLE WITH ANY **FEEBLE** AS YOU!

GO THEN, AND BRING **THIS** WORD TO YOUR GREAT LEADER! LET MAGNETO KNOW THAT THERE STANDS ONE HERE WHO CAN **MATCH** HIS MUTANT MASTERY--- AND MORE! LET HIM KNOW OF THE COMING OF--- **ERIK THE RED!**

**BAWAAK!**

**HOOO-BOY!** HERE'S A PRETTY KETTLE OF CLAMS! AS IF OUR **X-TRAORDINARY** FRIENDS DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TO WORRY ABOUT... THIS VIKING THROWBACK SHOULD ADD A FEW SURPRISES TO THE CONCLUDING EPISODE OF THIS STAGGERING SAGA! SO--- **BE THERE, MUTANT WATCHER!**

# THE ORIGINS OF THE UNCANNY X-MEN!

# "THE LURE OF THE BEAST-NAPPERS!"

HANK WAS *NEVER* AN ORDINARY BOY! AND, AS HE GREW, THE ATTENTION HIS PHYSICAL *POWERS* ATTRACTED PROVED FLATTERING--BUT NEARLY *FATAL!*

HRAY HANK! HRAY!

WROUGHT THROUGH THE ANIMAL ARTFULNESS OF:

| STAN LEE, EDITOR | ARNOLD DRAKE, WRITER | WERNER ROTH, ARTIST | JOHN TARTAG, INKER | HERB COOPER, LETTERER |
|---|---|---|---|---|

A MILLION FANS THROUGHOUT THE STATE OBSERVED HANK'S *INCREDIBLE FEAT!* BUT ONE SPECIAL PAIR OF MADDENED EYES LOOKED ON AND SPARKLED WITH *MALEVOLENCE!*

I HAVE *FOUND* HIM, CHICO! I KNEW THAT SOMEHOW, SOMEWHERE I WOULD DISCOVER THIS FINAL *HUMAN TOOL* THAT--

--WOULD COMPLETE MY INCREDIBLE PLAN FOR *TOTAL HUMAN DOMINATION!* --AND IT IS THAT *BOY!*

I, TOO, KNEW YOU WOULD FIND IT! FOR YOUR GREAT SCHEME WAS FATED TO SUCCEED -- *CONQUISTADOR!*

SEE HOW THEY SCREAM FOR THEIR YOUNG *HERO!* BUT THEIR JOY WILL TURN TO TERROR -- WHEN THE BOY BELONGS TO *US!*

*H'RAY HANK!*

I'VE SEEN HERO WORSHIP BEFORE, FANS--BUT NEVER ANYTHING LIKE *THIS!* GOOD THING THAT BOY CAN CLIMB WALLS! THIS IS --*FANTASTIC!*

NOT *HALF* AS FANTASTIC AS HE WILL PROVE WHEN I HAVE *HARNESSED* HIM TO MY ENGINE OF COMPLETE DESTRUCTION!

*CHICO--* CALL THE MEN! WE ARE READY TO *MOVE!*

LONG HAVE WE *WAITED* FOR THIS MOMENT, MY PATIENT ONES! BUT NOW OUR TIME HAS COME! WHEN THE BOY IS OURS--NOTHING CAN STOP--*EL CONQUISTADOR!*



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THAT NIGHT, AS HANK WENDS HIS WAY HOME FROM THE GAY *VICTORY* CELEBRATION...

CAR-EIGHT REPORTING! HAVE SIGHTED *SUBJECT!* HE IS ALONE! STREET DESERTED! CONDITIONS *PERFECT*--TO COMMENCE *TRIAL!*

ALERT STATIONS SIX AND FOURTEEN! TEST BEGINS *THREE* SECONDS FROM NOW!

CONSTR SITE

HEY--*YOU!* WATCH IT! HAVE YOU GONE STARK RAVING *NON-COMPUS-MENTUS?*

--TWO-- ONE-- *ZERO!*

VROOM!

LOOKS LIKE THE ONLY WAY *OUT* IS STRAIGHT--

--*UP!*

SHOOSH!

WOOSH

BWUMP!

NOW FOR MY FAVORITE *BILLIARD* SHOT! ONE OF THESE DAYS THE AUTHORITIES ARE GOING TO NAB ME FOR *FLYING* WITHOUT A LICENSE!

BAWOING!

THAT'S NOT EXACTLY THE WORLD'S *BEST* TRAMPOLINE! BUT--

--BEGGARS CAN'T BE CHOOSERS!

I HAVE SEEN *ALL!* THE BOY HAS PROVED *MORE* INGENIOUS THAN I HAD DARE *DREAM!* THE TRIAL IS OVER--

--NOW EXECUTE *OPERATION SNARE!* AND BRING HIM TO ME-- *INSTANTLY!*

FOR THE LOVE OF *PLINY!* IT SEEMS THERE'S MORE DANGER AFOOT THAN A MERE RUNAWAY *TRUCK!* --LIKE THESE TWO ERRANT *BIRDNAPPERS* WHO SEEM TO HAVE MISTAKEN ME FOR AN *ORIOLE!*

IT *GRIEVES* ME TO DISAPPOINT YOU, MY ASSAILANTS! BUT I'M NOT *THERE* ANYMORE! I'M --

*BA WOP!*

--*HERE!*

A *NOBLE* EFFORT, DEAR CHILD! BUT NOT A *SUCCESSFUL* ONE!

*OWFF!*

ANYBODY *EVER* TELL YOU THAT YOU HAVE A TALENT FOR DENOTING THE *OBVIOUS?*

ALSO FOR COMPUTING YOUR *POULTRY* BEFORE--

--THEY'VE BEEN TOTALLY *INCUBATED!*

WELL *DONE*, YOUNG GLADIATOR! YOU HAVE EQUALED THE *BEST* OF MY TRUSTED MEN! BUT I HAVE *SPED* HERE TO DEMONSTRATE THAT --

*INSTANTLY*, THE GLEAMING SWORD CONVERTS TO A *FAR STRANGER* WEAPON!

WHAT DO YOU *THINK* YOU'RE GOING TO GAIN WITH THAT *CRAZY* TRIDENT?

--YOU ARE *NO* MATCH FOR-- *THE CONQUISTADOR!*

*SNAP!*

*EYOWWW!* I GOT THE MESSAGE! THAT THING FIRES HIGH VOLTAGE *ELECTRICITY!*

HUHHH?

*CRACK!*

LATER, OUTSIDE HANK'S HOME, A *SILENT* FIGURE WAITS PATIENTLY FOR SOME SIGN OF LIFE! AND THEN BEGINS *STEALTHILY* ADVANCING...

WHAT THE *DEUCE?!* THE DINNER TABLE FRESHLY SET! AND SIGNS OF A NASTY *STRUGGLE!* BETTER REPORT BACK!

WHEN PROFESSOR XAVIER'S MUTANT DETECTOR-- *CEREBRO*--RECEIVED SIGNALS FROM THIS POINT--

--HE DIDN'T *REALIZE* HE WAS DISPATCHING ME INTO A FIRST CLASS *MYSTERY!*

--THAT'S WHAT I *SAID!* THE SUSPECTED MUTANT IS *GONE* AND SO ARE HIS FOLKS! AND THEY DIDN'T GO-- *QUIETLY!*

SOMEONE *ELSE* HAS DETECTED THE FULL POWER *INHERENT* IN THIS BOY! BUT WHO? AND FOR *WHAT* PURPOSE?

FRIENDS, IT IS TIME WE TOOK A MORE *DIRECT* ROLE IN THIS *ENIGMA!*

HOW DID *ANGEL* GET HERE BEFORE HIS ORIGIN WAS UNFOLDED! PATIENCE, DEAR FANATICS--AND ALL SHALL BE MADE *KNOWN!*

IT MAY, IN FACT, BE *PAST* TIME, PROFESSOR!

THE OPTION IS TOTALLY *YOURS*, BOY! YOUR IMPRISONED PARENTS WILL SURVIVE-- OR *NOT*--

--DEPENDENT UPON *YOUR* DECISION! NOW --FOR THE LAST TIME-- *WILL YOU COOPERATE?*



NEXT: HANK'S CHOICE!